

**State of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

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**2004  
STRATEGIC PLAN**

*"The Board has agreed that it is in the business of  
consumer protection, education & communication."*

**Mission Statement**

**The mission of the Board of Behavioral Sciences is to  
protect the consumer by establishing and maintaining standards  
for competent and ethical behavior by the professionals  
under its jurisdiction.**

## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

In developing this Strategic Plan, internal and external environmental assessments were utilized. To advance the planning process, Board members and staff participated in work sessions.

All goals support the mission and vision of the Board of Behavioral Sciences. Goals are numbered only for reference; each goal has equal priority within the organization.

- GOAL I    Ensure the applicants for licensure meet the requirements prescribed by law and regulation and streamline the application process**
- GOAL II    Strengthen the examination process**
- GOAL III    Increase consumer services and consumer protection by promoting and maintaining competence and ethical behavior by the professions**
- GOAL IV    Ensure that schools and students are in compliance with the laws and regulations and amend laws and regulations as necessary**

**GOAL I: ENSURE THE APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE MEET THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY LAW AND REGULATION AND STREAMLINE THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

**COMMITTEE: LICENSING**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To verify that applicants meet the requirements defined by law and regulation prior to taking their examination.
2. To review current application packets for clarity and effectiveness.
3. To implement and expand the use of efficient technology in the application process.
4. To clarify definitions of and set standards for qualified, trained supervisors.
5. To define and set standards for settings in which clinical experience may be gained.
6. To evaluate the continuing education program.

## **GOAL II: STRENGTHEN THE EXAMINATION PROCESS**

### **COMMITTEE: EXAMINATION**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To review examination results at Board meetings:
  - a. Examination outcomes and comparison data
  - b. New testing needs
  - c. Identify problem areas
2. To keep the examinations current and occupationally valid:
  - a. Maintain the standard written and clinical vignette examinations validity through ongoing examination development
  - b. Enhance the quality and cultural competency of Subject Matter Experts through ongoing recruitment and training of qualified licensees
3. To maintain knowledge of other states policies regarding examinations and monitor national trends.
4. To enhance the examination administration and improve examination availability:
  - a. Monitor DCA Master Services Agreement
  - b. Provide for continuous testing of the examinations
  - c. Expand site locations
5. To maintain examinations that meet all standards of validity and are free of negative bias:
  - a. Perform an occupational analysis for each profession every five years
  - b. Ensure examination development workshops are conducted within the highest professional standard
  - c. Involve licensed qualified professionals in the preparation of the examination standards
  - d. Ensure the examination questions test for scope of practice and cultural competency as defined in the occupational analysis and are free of racial, ethnic, or gender bias.
  - e. Provide training for all Subject Matter Experts before each workshop
  - f. Review the scoring method for the examinations
  - g. Continue to update the BBS library to include, but not be limited to, the latest empirical studies which predict harmful practice
6. To maintain communication with all stakeholders in regards to examination issues.
  - a. Provide information regarding examinations to licensees, associations, and interested public
  - b. Receive and direct comments appropriately
7. To keep current with technical changes in communication that could affect policies regarding examinations.
8. To review and adjust procedures that assure cultural competency in all aspects of the examination.

**GOAL III: INCREASE CONSUMER SERVICES AND  
CONSUMER PROTECTION BY PROMOTING AND  
MAINTAINING COMPETENCE AND ETHICAL  
BEHAVIOR BY THE PROFESSIONS**

**COMMITTEE: CONSUMER SERVICES / CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To continue to respond to consumer inquiries and decrease the case processing time frame.
2. To continue evaluation of alternative forms of discipline.
3. To annually review disciplinary guidelines for needed content changes.
4. To monitor cases for trends and public policy concerns.
5. To improve and ensure dissemination of information to licensees and interested parties.
6. To continue to monitor quality of expert witness selection process.
7. To continue to identify interested agencies and organizations to establish liaison and communication on an ongoing basis.
8. To encourage public participation and public responsiveness at public hearings and workshops as needed to facilitate input on specific issues.
9. To clarify for the public distinctions and similarities between the professions.
10. To keep current with present and emerging technologies to enhance enforcement efforts.
11. To continue to identify and investigate avenues that exist to improve ethical standards in practice.

**GOAL IV: ENSURE THAT SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND AMEND LAWS AND REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY**

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To verify that schools meet the requirements defined by law and regulation:
  - a. Review current forms for clarity and effectiveness
  - b. Create new forms if needed
  - c. Provide guidance and clarity in understanding the laws and regulations
2. To review curriculum for Marriage and Family Therapy degree programs and initiate changes if necessary:
  - a. Set standards for qualified degree programs
3. To evaluate school performance and implement protocols for review:
  - a. Review statistical outcomes and comparison data
  - b. Identify problem areas
4. To monitor school oversight of Trainee experience and settings:
  - a. Define and set standards for appropriate settings for qualifying Trainee experience
5. To maintain communication with all stakeholders in regard to education issues.
  - a. Meet with educational institutions and interested parties on a regular basis